

H3

PACKAGING CONTAINER



BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

5 The present invention relates to a packaging container and, more particularly, to a packaging container having a container body for containing confectionery and a lid capable of hermetically sealing the container body.

Description of the Related Art

10 A known packaging container intended for uses as a confectionery container has a container body having a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone and an open end corresponding to the bottom of the inverted cone, and a lid for hermetically sealing the container body. In some packaging
15 container of this kind, a label printed on it a picture of confectionery contained in the packaging container, a trademark and the like is affixed to the side surface of its container body.

 Such a confectionery container is held by one hand and confectionery contained in the confectionery container is taken
20 out by the other hand for eating.

 Since the container body of this confectionery container has a shape substantially resembling the shape of an inverted cone, the confectionery container is unable to hold itself in an upright position on a table or the like. The confectionery
25 container must be supported on a stand or the like to place the same in an upright position on a table or the like.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

 Accordingly, it is an object of the present invention to
30 solve the problem in the prior art and to provide a packaging container having a container body of a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone, capable of supporting itself on a surface and enabling taking out its contents even if the container body is not held by hand.

35 With the foregoing object in view, the present invention provides a packaging container including a container body formed in a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone and having

093327260

a tapered end portion and an open end opposite the tapered end portion, a lid for hermetically sealing the container body, and a frustum-shaped exterior shell removably fitted on the container body, wherein the exterior shell is removed from the container
 5 body and is inverted, and a tapered end portion of the container body is inserted in the inverted exterior shell to support the container body by the exterior shell.

The exterior shell is fixedly fitted on the side wall of the container body when the packaging container containing
 10 confectionery is sold. When taking out the confectionery contained in the packaging container, the exterior shell is removed from the container body and is inverted, and a tapered end portion of the container body is inserted in the inverted exterior shell to support the container body by the exterior shell.
 15 Thus, the container body of a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone can be supported by the exterior shell on a support surface without requiring any stand.

Preferably, a smaller end of the exterior shell holds fast to the side wall of the container body when the exterior shell
 20 is fitted on the container body. Since the exterior shell has the shape of a frustum, the exterior shell can be firmly held on the container body by fastening the same to the container body only by the small end thereof and a larger end of the exterior shell does not need to hold fast to the side wall of the container
 25 body. Therefore, the exterior shell can be easily removed from the container body.

Preferably, the smaller end of the exterior shell as fitted on the container body is lightly bonded to the side wall of the container body. Thus, the exterior shell can be easily removed
 30 from the container body, is inverted and is used for supporting the container body.

Preferably, protrusions are formed in the outer surface of the side wall of the container body and the smaller end of the exterior shell engages the protrusions when the exterior shell
 35 is fitted fast on the container body. The engagement of the smaller end of the exterior shell with the protrusions of the container body secures the exterior shell in place when the

exterior shell is fitted on the container body. Thus, the exterior shell can be easily removed from the container body, is inverted and is used for supporting the container body. The exterior shell can be easily fitted fast on the container body again.

Preferably, the exterior shell is formed in an axial length such that the tip of the tapered end portion of the container body fitted in the inverted exterior shell is spaced apart from a support surface. Thus, the exterior shell functions as a stand and supports the container body so that the tip thereof is spaced apart from the support surface.

Preferably, the protrusions are formed on the side wall of the container body at positions on the side of the tapered end portion of the container body with respect to an axially middle portion of the side wall of the container body. Thus, the tip of the container body can be spaced apart from a support surface when the smaller end of the exterior shell engages the protrusions.

Preferably, the protrusions are arranged at intervals or continuously in a ring on a line of intersection of a plane perpendicular to the axis of the container body and the outer circumference of the side wall of the container body. The projections give an esthetic effect to the design of the container body in addition to a functional effect.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a packaging container in a preferred embodiment according to the present invention, in which a lid is removed;

Fig. 2 is a perspective view of a lid included in the packaging container shown in Fig. 1;

Fig. 3 is a perspective view of the packaging container shown in Fig. 1 in a sealed state;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view of the packaging container shown in Fig. 3 taken on line A-B-C in Fig. 5;

Fig. 5 is a plan view of the lid; and

Fig. 6 is a side elevation of a packaging container in a

modification of the packaging container shown in Fig. 1.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Packaging containers in preferred embodiments according to the present invention will be described hereinafter with reference to the accompanying drawings.

As shown in Figs. 1 to 5, a packaging container 1 in a first embodiment according to the present invention includes a container body 2, a lid 3 and an exterior shell 4.

The container body 2 is provided in the outer circumference of its side wall with eight esthetic, longitudinal grooves 7 extending from the brim of the open end 6 thereof to a middle portion of the side wall.

A plurality of semispherical, small protrusions 8, six semispherical, small protrusions in this embodiment, are formed on the outer circumference of the side wall of the container body 2. The small projections 8 are arranged on the intersection line of a plane perpendicular to the axis of the container body 2 and the outer circumference of the side wall of the container body 2. The protrusions 8 are formed at positions on the side of a tapered end portion 5 of the container body 2 with respect to an axially middle portion of the side wall of the container body 2. The protrusions 8 may be esthetically arranged at intervals on the line of intersection of a plane perpendicular to the axis of the container body 2 and the outer circumference of the side wall of the container body 2 or may be arranged continuously in a ring. The projections 8 can be formed so as to exercise a function to engage the smaller end of the exterior shell 4 and also to give an esthetic effect to the design of the container body 2.

As shown in Fig. 1, confectionery 15, such as chips of confectionery, is contained in the container body 2.

The lid is put on the container body 2 so as to seal the open end 6 of the container body 2. The lid 3 is provided on its upper surface with a knob 3a. The lid 3 is put on the container body 2 to close the open end 6 and is taken off the container body 2 to open the open end 6 by holding the knob 3a between

fingers.

The exterior shell 4 is formed in the shape of a frustum having a smaller end and a larger end by adhesively joining together the opposite ends of a paper sheet or the like. The exterior shell 4 can be used as a label for showing a picture of confectionery contained in the packaging container 1, a trademark and the like. In Fig. 1, a pictures, a trademark and the like printed on the surface of the exterior shell 4 are omitted.

As shown in Fig. 3, the smaller end of the exterior shell 4 is on the upper side of the protrusions 8 and the larger end of the exterior shell is in close contact with a portion of the side wall of the container body 2 near the open end 6 of the container body 2 before the packaging container 1 is opened. The larger end of the exterior shell 4 is not joined adhesively to the container body 2. Since the exterior shell 4 has the shape of a frustum, the exterior shell 4 can be securely held on the container body 2 by fitting the exterior shell 4 on the container body 2 so that only the smaller end thereof engages the container body firmly and the larger end thereof is in loose engagement with the container body 2. Thus, the exterior shell 4 can be easily removed from the container body 2.

The exterior shell is formed in a predetermined axial length, such that the tip of the tapered end portion 5 of the container body 2 fitted in the inverted exterior shell 4 is spaced apart from a support surface. The axial length of the exterior shell 4 is, for example, greater than half the axial length of the container body 2.

The smaller end of the exterior shell 4 is disengaged from the protrusions 8 and the exterior shell 4 can be removed from the container body 2 by pulling the exterior shell 4 toward the tip of the tapered end portion 5. The exterior shell 4 removed from the container body 2 is inverted and a tapered end portion of the container body 2 is inserted through the smaller end in the exterior shell 4. Then, the smaller end of the exterior shell 4 engages the lower portions of the protrusions 8 as shown in Fig. 1 and the exterior shell 4 serves as a stand for supporting

T.0000" 62/23/250

the container body 2. When leaving the confectionery 15 half eaten to eat the residual confectionery 15 later, the exterior shell 4 in a state shown in Fig. 1 is removed from the container body 2, is inverted and is fitted on the container body 2 as shown in Fig. 3, and the lid 3 is put on the container body 2 to close the open end 6 of the container body 2.

Thus, the container body 2 having a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone can be supported on a support surface by the exterior shell 4.

10 The exterior shell 4 serves as a support as well as a label printed on it a picture of the confectionery contained in the container body 2, a trademark and the like.

The exterior shell 4 can be easily removed from the container body 2 because the exterior shell 4 is retained on the container body 2 only by the smaller end engaging upper portions of the protrusions 8 and can be used as a stand as shown in Fig. 1. When necessary, the exterior shell 4 can be fitted again on the container body 2 as shown in Fig. 3.

Fig. 6 shows a packaging container in a modification of the packaging container 1 shown in Figs. 1 to 5, in which parts like or corresponding to those of the packaging container 1 shown in Figs. 1 to 5 are denoted by the same reference characters and the description thereof will be omitted. As shown in Fig. 6, the exterior shell 4 may be fitted on the container body 2 and may be held on the container body 2 by lightly bonding a smaller end portion 10 thereof with an adhesive or the like to the outer surface of the container body 2 instead of by engaging the smaller end thereof with the protrusions 8 formed on the outer surface of the container body 2 so that the exterior shell 4 can be separated from the container body 2 by applying a small force thereto. The exterior shell 4 is removed from the container body 2 by applying a small force thereto and is inverted. The tapered end portion 5 of the container body 2 is inserted in the inverted exterior shell 4 to use the inverted exterior shell 4 as a support. Since the exterior shell 4 has a shape resembling a frustum, the smaller end portion 10 can be fitted fast on the container body 2 by passing the tapered end portion 5 through the exterior shell

Although the invention has been described as applied to packaging containers for containing confectionery, the present invention is not limited thereto in its practical application and may be applied to packaging containers for containing articles other than confectionery, such as pickles and the like.

As apparent from the foregoing description, the exterior shell of the packaging container of the present invention can be used as a label and a stand, the container body having a shape substantially resembling an inverted cone can be set alone on the support surface, and the contents, such as confectionery, contained in the container body can be taken out without holding the packaging container by hand.